GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1438
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Microplastics
Arunmozhithevan Shri A.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Government is considering to ban microplastics in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether microbeads used as scrubbers in cosmetic products are being released into the natural environment; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Doesn't arise in view of answer at (a) above.

(c) & (d) Microbeads are commonly used in cosmetic products like toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, facial cleansers etc. as abrasives and exfoliating agents. According to the Central Drug Standards Control Organization, it has not received any report of adverse impact on environment regarding use of microbeads for manufacturing soap, toothpaste and other products. However, existing regulations under Schedule S of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, prescribes that Cosmetics in finished from shall conform to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications laid down from time to time by the BIS. The MoEF&CC has not commissioned any study to ascertain the impact of microbeads on environment.

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